

Library of Congress (Jefferson Building)
Northeast corner of 1st Street
and Independence Avenue, SE
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-351

HABS
DC,
WASH,
461A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
DC,
WASH,
461A-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Library of Congress		HABS NO. DC-351
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Northeast corner of 1st Street and Independence Avenue, SE		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1888-1897	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1888: Smithmeyer and Pelz drew up original plans 1889-1892: Paul Pelz 1892-97: Edward P. Case	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The nation's "main" library, the Library of Congress serves not only Congress but also acts as central source for resource collection and for copyright. Building is one of the world's largest and most ornate library structures, with works of art commissioned from over 50 American painters and sculptors.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Italian Renaissance Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) New Hampshire Granite		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangle enclosing a cross which forms four inner courtyards; octagonal rotunda at crossing with copper dome and lantern; 470' (27-bay front) by 340' (21-bays); CONTINUED NEXT PAGE. .		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE balustrade at eaves; granite is rock-faced on basement story, more finely dressed on first floor, smooth on second floor; 1st floor arched windows have ornamental keystones, pavilion keystones displaying 23 sculpted heads of races of man; CONTINUED . . .		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Features Italian white marble grand stairway; rotunda is most lavishly decorated space and contains reading room and card catalog; rotunda surrounded by 8 clustered piers, has coffered dome, is ornamented with paintings, mosaics, symbolic plaster groups; bronze portrait statues; smaller reading rooms on second floor in corner pavilions		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Original plans altered when construction put under the control of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Gen. Thomas L. Casey, chief of engineers; Bernard R. Green, C.E., superintendent of construction.		
PRESENT CONOITION AND USE Condition good.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u> National Historic Landmark <u>Category I District of Columbia Landmark</u>		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS		DATE 7/6/83

CONTINUATIONS

Shape and Dimensions of Structure

lantern is 195' high; projecting pavilions in center of front and rear facades and at each corner; ground floor treated as a fully exposed basement; above are 2 principal floors; third floor in pavilions and in rear wing; cellar below ground floor

Exterior Features of Note

2nd floor windows have alternating segmental and triangular pediments; pavilions have columns at second floor level; main entrance in central pavilion approached by grand terraced stairway; at base of stairway is "Court of Neptune" fountain by sculptor Roland Hinton Perry.

ADDENDUM TO
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
(JEFFERSON BUILDING)
First Street and Independence Avenue, SE
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-351

HABS
DC,
WASH,
461-A-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013